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that particular channel will be generally restricted. The next bead in the series following the unrestricted fluid flow, then flows to the next available resting well to settle in place.

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 38, line 25 with the following:

Within the parallel channel, the test compound will be contacted with the biochemical system for which an effector compound is being sought. As shown, the first component of the biochemical system is placed into the reaction channels using a similar technique to that described for the test compounds. In particular, the biochemical system is typically introduced via one or more transverse seeding channels **306**. Arrows **342** in Figure 4A illustrate the direction of fluid flow within the seeding channel **306**. The biochemical system are optionally solution based, e.g., a continuously flowing enzyme/substrate or receptor-ligand mixture, like that described above, or as shown in FIGS. 4A-4F, may be a whole cell or bead based system, e.g., beads which have enzyme/substrate systems immobilized thereon.

#### REMARKS

Claims 75-90 are pending in the above-captioned application. Claims 75-77, 79, 80, 82-86, and 88-90 have been allowed. Claims 78, 81, and 87 stand rejected.

#### I. Objection to the Drawings

Applicant has amended both the drawings and the specification to overcome the Examiner's objections to the drawings. Specifically, the reference number 500 has been added to Figure 5, reference numbers 326-338 have been added to Figures 4A-4F, reference numbers 340 and 342 have been added to Figure 4A, the specification has been amended to reflect that reference numbers 340 and 342 are only present in Figure 4A, and reference number 316 in Figure 3 has been changed to 116. Reference number 116, which corresponds to a detection window or zone, is discussed (for example) on page 35, line 13 of the application. Red line versions of Figures 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4F, and 5 showing the changes made to those figures, as well as clean versions of the amended figures, are appended to this response.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 78, 81 and 87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. According to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, a claim can satisfy the written description requirement even if it is not literally supported in the specification:


Adequate description under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 does not require *literal* support for the claimed invention. ...

Rather, it is sufficient if the originally-filed disclosure would have conveyed to one having ordinary skill in the art that an appellant had possession of the concept of what is claimed.

*Ex parte Parks*, 30 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1513 (B.P.A.I. 1992)(emphasis in original). In other words, the proper inquiry is whether the specification conveyed to one skilled in the art, at the time of the filing of the patent application, that the applicant's invention applied to 96, 192, 384, or 1536 well plates.

The disclosure of "multiwell microplates" (Application pg. 36, line 14, Figure 7, element 711) provides adequate support for the claims covering 96, 192, 384, or 1536 well plates because one skilled in the art at the time of invention would have recognized those as standard plate configurations. In other words, at the time of the invention, one skilled in the art would have known that there were certain standard "multiwell microplates" configurations, and that any reference to "multiwell microplates" encompassed those standard configurations. The following patents, which were all filed before the pending application, refer to multiwell microplate configurations containing 96, 192, 384, or 1536 well plates. (Copies of the patents are attached for the Examiner's convenience).

Reference (U.S. Pat. No.)	Microplate Configurations	Citation
5,508,005	96, 192	Col. 7 lines 12-18.
5,560,811	96,192,384	Col. 11 lines 31-35.
5,604,130	96,384	Col. 7 lines 5-9.
5,753,511	96,384	Col. 10 lines 19-22.



Reference (U.S. Pat. No.)	Microplate Configurations	Citation
6,100,026	96,384,1536	Col. 7 lines 4-7; Col. 9 line 54 – Col. 10 line 1.
6,319,668	96,384,1536	Col. 7 lines 15-18; Col. 7 lines 50-51; Col. 10 lines 8 –12.

Since one skilled in the art at the time of invention would recognized that multiwell microplates came in 96, 192, 384, or 1536 well configurations, he or she would have recognized that the applicant's invention applied to those standard microplate configurations. Therefore claims 78, 81, and 87 meet the written description requirement of the first paragraph of § 112, and are in condition for allowance.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 75-77, 79-80, 82-86, and 88-90 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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